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Execétive Secretary 24 Oct 89

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United States Department of State

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CONFIDENTIAL

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

October 23, 1989

MR. BRENT SCOWCROFT National Security Advisor The White House

MR. CARNES LORD
Assistant to the Vice President
for National Security Affairs

COL. GEORGE P. COLE, JR. Executive Secretary Department of Defense

GEN. THOMAS E. WHITE, JR. Executive Assistant to the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff

MR. H. LAWRENCE SANDALL Executive Secretary Central Intelligence Agency

MS. EMILY WALKER
Executive Secretary
Department of Treasury

MS. SUE NELSON
Executive Assistant to the
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

MS. MOLLY HAGEBOECK Chief of Staff Agency for International Development

MR. ARTHUR E. GREEN
Executive Secretary
United States Information Agency

SUBJECT: October 25 Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) Meeting on USG Policy on Haiti.

Please transmit the attached meeting notification and discussion paper to principals of the Policy Coordinating Committee on Latin America.

J. Stapleton Roy Executive Secretary

Attachments: As stated.

CONFIDENTIAL DECL: OADR



B-413-IR

United States Department of State

" Similar D.C. 2052"

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

TO:

PCC Participants

FROM:

ARA - Bernard Aronson, Chairman ARA

PCC on Latin America

SUBJECT:

Second PCC Meeting on Policy Toward Haiti

A meeting of the Policy Coordinating Committee will be held as follows to discuss the attached paper on USG policy toward Haiti.

DATE:

October 25, 1989

TIME:

2:00 p.m.

PLACE:

ARA Conference Room, 6909 State Department

AGENDA:

II. Discussion of Haiti Policy.....All

Principals plus one are invited to attend the meeting. Participants should telephone attendance to the Office of Caribbean Affairs, Haiti Desk (ARA/CAR), at the Department of State, 647-4827.

DISTRIBUTION:

Mr. David Pacelli, National Security Council

Mr. Jon Glassman, Office of the Vice President

Mr. Richard Brown, Department of Defense

BG. David C. Meade, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Mr. James Fall, Department of the Treasury

Central Intelligence Agency Central Intelligence Agency

Mr. Fred Schieck, Agency for International Development

Mr. Kerry Reynolds, Department of Agriculture

Mr. Doug Rose, United States Information Agency

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DISCUSSION PAPER: USG POLICY TOWARD HAITI

Since the last Policy Coordinating Meeting on Haiti, August 16, Assistant Secretary of State Bernard Aronson visited Haiti for consultations with President Avril, senior government officials, members of the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), and prominent political, business, and social leaders. Shortly after Mr. Aronson's visit, the GOH announced a calendar for new elections in Haiti. Subsequently, Mr. Aronson consulted with members of the Congressional Task Force on Haiti concerning USG efforts to support democratic reforms, and the need for flexibility in legislation on assistance to Haiti. Responding to Mr. Aronson's invitation, Congressmen Crockett and Fauntroy will visit Haiti December 7-11. Other members of the Task Force may decide to join the delegation.

The calendar calls for elections to be held in stages throughout 1990, beginning with local elections in April, legislative elections in July/August, and a presidential election in October/November. The new government is scheduled to be inaugurated in February 1991.

The election calendar is a significant step forward. However, it is also a gauntlet in the face of those who remain opposed to reform. We can expect that they now will step up their attempts to block the democratic transition process.

We are concerned that deteriorating economic conditions may undo the progress made over the last year on human rights and political reform. On September 27, A widely supported general strike, called to protest the high cost of living and the recently concluded IMF agreement, shut down business throughout most of Haiti. A serious foreign exchange shortage is making imported staple commodities both scarce and expensive.

Elsewhere, the Duvalierists, some business community members, the far left, and elements tied to narcotics trafficking are continuing their attempts to destabilize the government. The Army remains weak in the aftermath of the nearly successful April coup attempt. The Haitian Catholic Church is preoccupied with its internal divisions. Centrist politicians cannot openly support Avril for fear of damaging their electoral credibility. Other politicians, with uncertain prospects at the polls, may prefer to see the process fail and take their chances with another rigged election.

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Time is running out in Haiti. The period between now and the first round of elections in April will be critical. The USG must act now to help stabilize economic and political conditions if the reforms are to have a chance to succeed. If the process fails again, we are likely to see widespread civil violence, a series of short-lived, abusive governments, and an eventual return to power of elements of the former Duvalier regime.

The Bureau of Inter-American Affairs is attempting to identify \$15 million in ESF that can be diverted to Haiti for the critical months ahead. We are also pressing other potential bilateral and multilateral donors to assume a more substantial financial role. It is imperative that other USG agencies also identify resources for Haiti. For example, we need an additional \$25 million in monetized PL-480 for FY-90, as well as modest sums of FMSF to support quality of life items for the enlisted ranks of the Haitian Army. Civic Action programs, medical and engineering training exercises and ship visits would also be useful.

PCC participants should be prepared to discuss the above examples, and other assistance their agencies could provide in support of USG policy in Haiti. The Department of State proposes to establish an informal PCC working group to coordinate USG efforts in support of democratic reforms in Haiti.

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